



# Harleston CE Primary Academy

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Diocese of Norwich  
St Benet's  
Multi Academy Trust

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that you were able to all enjoy a happy and healthy festive period but I am very aware that for some members of our community, your plans may have changed as a result of the ongoing Covid pandemic and the challenges we continue to face. Looking ahead, we do so with great hope and optimism and we look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on **Thursday 6th January** to commence the Spring Term.

## **January 2022 - Updated DFE guidance: Covid-19 testing for students in January**

Many people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. Testing for primary pupils is not mandatory however to reduce the risk of transmission of what is a highly infectious variant of Covid we ask that all members of the community complete a LFD test at home on Wednesday 5th January. Please report any positive cases with the school office and follow up with a confirmatory PCR test.

*Please note, in a revision to the previous published guidance, even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.*

## **Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19**

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid-19 has been reduced to 7 days for people in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

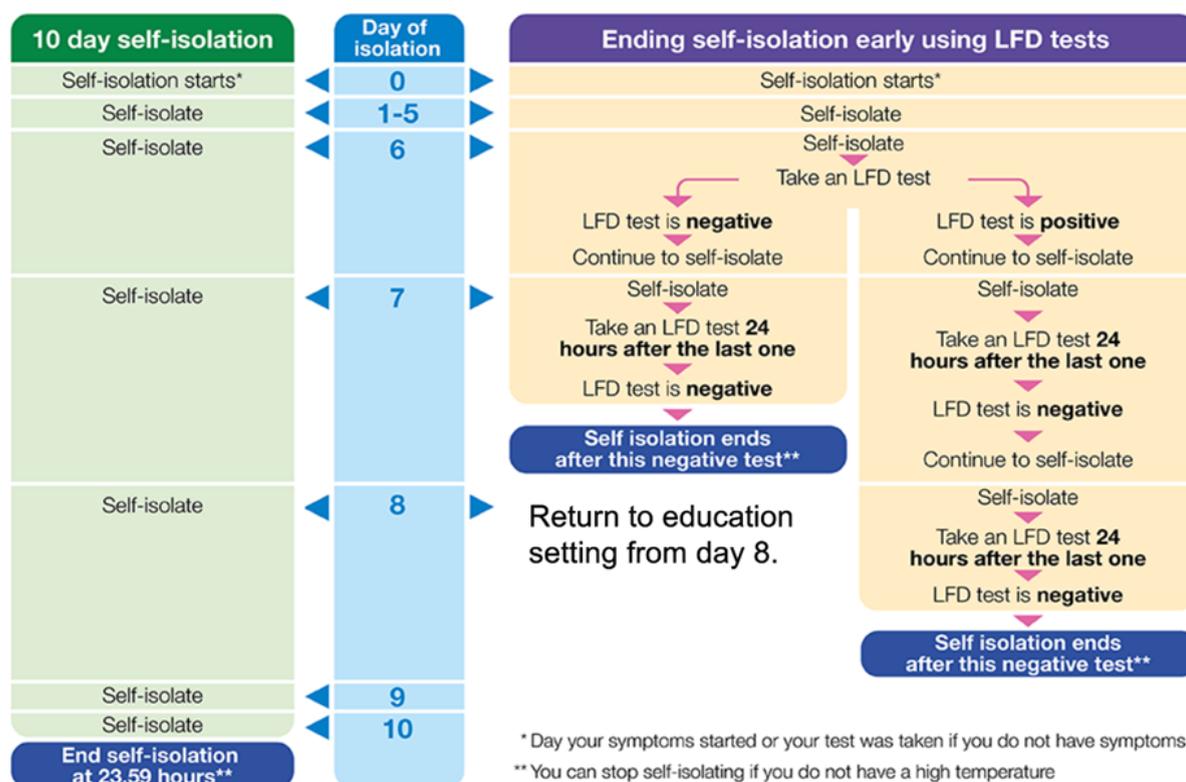
Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive 2 negative test results are no longer required to complete the full 10-days of self isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting on or after day 7. A flow chart explaining the revised self-isolation measures can be found below.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had Covid-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

The DFE have also published revised guidance for parents and carers and this can be accessed via the link ([click here](#)).

**Flow chart explaining the revised self-isolation measures**



**Contacts of positive cases:**

NHS Test and Trace or the setting will work with a positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts are likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Household/close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 years 6 months do not need to isolate but should do **daily LFD tests for 7 days**. The daily LFD should be done before leaving home for the first time each day. If during this time the LFD test is positive, the individual must self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.

**Unvaccinated adult household/close contacts must isolate for 10 days.**

As a school, our mission continues to be to support our whole community in experiencing ‘Life In All Its Fullness’, and our curriculum will continue in its breadth and depth. This half term is likely to present challenges that will require adaptation and flexibility and I continue to work closely with Mr Carlyle and the staff at HPA to ensure the best provision is in place for our children. We will do our best to minimise any disruption and we will endeavour to communicate as effectively as we can. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support and understanding of the challenges that schools face.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Connelly  
Executive Headteacher